

scholar, Judge Roberson has lectured on civil procedure at California State University, Los Angeles, and appeared before numerous Bar Associations as a professional panelist and moderator.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to pay tribute to Judge Roberson today. I commend him for his outstanding service to the citizens of Los Angeles, and wish him a long, healthy, and prosperous retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO INCREASE VETERANS' BURIAL BENEFITS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce legislation to increase the burial benefits for certain veterans from the current allowance of \$300 to \$600. This will represent the first increase in the burial benefit in 20 years.

Current law allows a funeral benefit of \$300 for veterans who were receiving disability pay or pensions, or those who were eligible for pensions but who weren't receiving them. This was intended to help defray the costs of funerals for the surviving families. However, Congress has not seen fit to increase this allowance since 1978, and it is past time to do so.

Just before the end of World War I, Congress created a funeral allowance of up to \$100 for some war veterans. After World War II, the maximum allowance was increased to \$150, and, in 1978, it was increased to \$300—where it is today.

When the House was deliberating an increase in 1958, several members rose to point out that it had been 12 years since the last increase in this modest benefit, and that the benefit level was no longer realistic. They said increasing the benefit for the families of those veterans who were eligible for it was "long overdue," and showed that Congress was aware of the economic realities faced by those families. I think, if those Members were here today, they would be saying the same things.

Everyone understands that because of inflation a proper memorial, either a funeral or a cremation, is far expensive in 1998 than it was in 1958, or 1978. A funeral, today, can run thousands of dollars, creating a burden on a bereaved family at a difficult time. I don't think it is asking too much to increase this small benefit for these veterans, which is why I will introduce legislation to double it, to \$600.

When members of Congress created this allowance after World War I, they did so because they believed that every veteran receiving disability pay or a pension had a right to be buried with dignity, and without undue financial hardships for the family. That principle was true then, and it remains true today.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FLEETWOOD HOMES OF TENNESSEE WINS THE 1998 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS OF CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AWARD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fleetwood Homes of Tennessee, an organization that has achieved distinction for its outstanding work to ensure comfortable living.

I want to offer my personal congratulations on a great job in customer satisfaction again this year. The 1998 National Champions of Customer Satisfaction Award is a distinguished achievement in itself, but this is the fifth year that this organization has been recognized. The continual satisfaction they have provided their customers makes this an even more remarkable accomplishment.

This award is based on customer satisfaction with the quality of their home after a period of six months. Fleetwood has received a 95.3% positive response after this period of time, making this organization the highest rated out of 46 manufacturers across the United States. This is quite an incredible number of people in Tennessee and across the nation that are satisfied with their service from Fleetwood Homes.

I particularly want to recognize the office in Westmoreland, Tennessee that has received the award for their outstanding service in the Sixth District. They have not only achieved this particular award five out of the ten years it has been presented but also have gained recognition by receiving the Division Champion Award. I am very proud to have a company of such high standards in service and quality in my district.

I want to congratulate Fleetwood once again on this accomplishment and thank them for satisfying so many Tennesseans with their efforts. I hope to see this organization continue with its success in the future and encourage them to keep up the great work.

HONORING THE 1999 FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARD WINNERS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 1999 Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Valor Award Winners. On Thursday, February 11, 1999, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce will present the Annual Valor Awards at the McLean Hilton.

The Valor Awards honor public service officials who have demonstrated extreme self-sacrifice, personal bravery, and ingenuity in the performance of their duty. There are five categories: The Gold Medal of Valor, The Silver Medal of Valor, The Bronze Medal of Valor, The Certificate of Valor, and The Life Saving Award.

The Valor Award is a project of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. This is the twenty-first year that these awards have been presented.

The Silver Medal of Valor is awarded in recognition of acts involving great personal risk.

The Silver Medal of Valor Award Winner for 1999 is: Lieutenant Sandra K. Caplo.

The Bronze Medal of Valor is awarded in recognition of acts involving unusual risk beyond that which should be expected while performing the usual responsibilities of the member.

The Bronze Medal of Valor Award Winners for 1999 are: Police Officer First Class Timothy C. Benedict, Police Officer First Class Troy W. Fulk, Police Officer First Class Michael E. Ukele, Second Lieutenant Tony C. Young and Lieutenant Michael I. Runnels.

The Certificate of Valor is awarded for acts that involve personal risk and/or demonstration of judgment, zeal, or ingenuity not normally involved in the performance of duties.

The Certificate of Valor Award Winners for 1999 are: Sergeant John A. Absalon, Police Officer First Class Scott D. Argiro, Police Officer First Class James J. Banachoski, Jr., Police Officer First Class Scott C. Bates, Police Officer First Class Westley Bevan, Assistant Shift Supervisor Sally A. Fitzpatrick, Police Officer First Class Thomas M. Holland, Police Officer First Class Stephen Keeney, Master Police Officer (retired) James M. Kenna, Police Officer First Class Stephen M. Shelby, Police Officer First Class James H. Urie, Jr., Deputy Sheriff Samuel S. Gonsalves, Firefighter Charles J. Epps, Firefighter Ronald S. Hollister, Technician William S. Keller, Technician Michael D. Macario, Technician David W. Walker, Master Technician Claire O. Ducker, Jr. and Deputy Chief John J. Brown, Jr.

The Lifesaving Award is awarded for acts taken in life-threatening situations where an individual's life is in jeopardy, either medically or physically.

The Lifesaving Award winners for 1999 are: Police Officer First Class Timothy C. Benedict, Public Safety Communicator II Dana E. Branten, Public Safety Communicator II Roland F. Bolton, Public Safety Communicator II L. Jean Cahill, Police Officer First Class Robert A. Dalstrom, Auxiliary Police Officer Gary Gaal, Police Officer First Class John M. Harris, Public Safety Communicator III John L. Krivjansky, Sergeant Gunma S. Lee, Public Safety Communicator II Christopher S. Lehn (2 Lifesaving awards), Police Officer First Class Charles K. Owens, Sergeant Walter F. Smallwood III, Police Officer Deborah J. Stout, Deputy Sheriff Kenneth M. Cox, Deputy Sheriff Corporal Brian M. Johnston, Deputy Sheriff Private First Class Kathleen A. Miller, Deputy Sheriff Ronald E. Phillips, Master Deputy Sheriff James K. Pope, Master Deputy Sheriff Swight E. Shobe, Deputy Sheriff Eric S. Yi, Firefighter Walter A. Deihl and Lieutenant Wayne P. Wentzel.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to send my sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to these distinguished public servants who are truly deserving of the title "hero."